

# Elgin Park Secondary School



## PAC Meeting Minutes

**February 18, 2026**

Attendance: Michael Sweeney (Principal), Jennifer Mathieson (Chair), Victoria Gootgarts (Treasurer), Richa Balachandran (Secretary) and 2 parents in class. Meeting was conducted in person, at school, and online via Zoom.

**1. Call to Order 7:00**

Jen Mathieson called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm

**2. Approval of Agenda**

**MOTION:** That the agenda be approved as presented

Carried.

**3. Approval of Minutes, Jan 21, 2025**

**MOTION:** That the minutes be approved as presented

Carried.

**4. Reports:**

**i. Principal's Report**

Mr. Sweeney shared the following updates:

- 6 weeks into the role
  - Mr. Sweeney joined Elgin Park Secondary in Jan 2026
- Semester 2
  - Semester 2 has started
  - 1<sup>st</sup> term report cards came out. They were published on My ED for parents to view
  - Report cards used to be printed earlier to make sure parents see them
  - Now they are published online for more parents to access the report cards and still only about 50% of the parents see them
- Course Selection
  - Course selection on going. Closes March 9. Course selection parents' night went very well. Lots of parent participation
  - Counsellors working with the students to get the courses in. They are meeting with the students to see what they are generally interested in or want to do and get the courses selected accordingly
  - Meetings conducted with grades 8 and 9 this week
  - Next week, one on one meetings with grades 10 and 11

- Long process for course selection
- Lunar New Year
  - Lunar New Year celebrations going on in school
- Sports
  - Sports on going. School has its first Flag Football team ever
  - About 50 kids trying out for the 1<sup>st</sup> Flag Football team. Huge turnout
  - Unified Basketball league going on very well. 2 weeks of play. All kids received Elgin basketball T shirts. Lots of cheering and it was a huge success

## ii. Chair's Report

- Constitution and By Laws
  - Updated By Laws were emailed to all the parents
  - Social Media content was added to our existing by laws along with some terminology changes
  - Chair went through all the changes made to the By Laws
  - Everyone present in the room was asked to vote to pass the changes and make them official

**MOTION:** That the By Laws be approved as presented

  - Carried.
- By Laws available online for anyone to read. Please email [elginPAC@gmail.com](mailto:elginPAC@gmail.com) if you have any questions
- School Driveway
  - Work order in place to fix the school driveway
  - Waiting for the freeze period to be over
  - To be completed by spring
- Gaming License and Raffles
  - We finally have our gaming license in place making sure we are following all the gaming rules and laws
  - Last license was issued in 2013
  - Raffles are coming with Dry Gard
  - We need to find some fundraising opportunities for PAC as the donations we have received thus far are not very good

## iii. Treasurer's Report

Victoria Gootgarts shared the financial reports covering the period from January 21, 2026, to February 18, 2026, and answered questions from the parents and committee.

- Income and Expenditure Account (Cash Book) for the period ending February 18, 2026, for the **CIBC PAC Gaming Account**. Closing balance \$ 31,378.52. Reconciled to the bank
- Income and Expenditure Account (Cash Book) for period ending February 18, 2026, for the **CIBC PAC General Account**. Closing balance \$27,084.02. Reconciled to the bank

- A total of \$8,850 **Scholarships/bursaries** approved in previous years have not been claimed yet. Students have 27 months to claim their scholarships/ bursaries
- PAC funds available to be allocated for this school year - \$2,765.78

The bank balance and transaction spreadsheets are available to parents at any time, upon request. Please email [elginPAC@gmail.com](mailto:elginPAC@gmail.com) if you have any questions or wish to review the accounts

#### iv. DPAC Update

Chair presented DPAC minutes on behalf of Sheri Hardcastle (DPAC Rep).

Surrey DPAC Summary: January 28, 2026, general meeting.

Discussions focused primarily on the upcoming district budget process, advocacy priorities, and upcoming opportunities for parent engagement.

- **Education Session: District Budget Process**
  - Key discussion priorities with the Minister of Education and Child Care included:
    1. Inclusive education funding
    2. Capital needs (school facilities and growth planning)
  - The SD36 Board has been meeting with elected officials and municipal partners and will continue discussions with rights holders and community partners in the coming months.
  - The district is reviewing enrollment projections and noted that recent trends show potential short-term enrollment decline.
  - School Calendar Consultation: Families are invited to provide feedback on the proposed 2027–28 and 2028–29 school calendars (survey closes February 16).
  - Budget Consultation: A district-wide budget survey will be launched in February or March. Updates will be provided at public board meetings.
  - Kindergarten Lottery: Applications for select Programs of Choice open February 2 and close February 20.
- **Business Session Highlights**
  - DPAC continues conversations with the Surrey Teachers' Association (STA) and CUPE 728 regarding shared concerns and potential joint advocacy.
- **Surrey Teachers' Association Update**

The STA emphasized that teachers and parents share similar goals, including:

  - Improved classroom conditions
  - Increased support staff (counsellors, mental health supports, Inclusive Education Support Workers)
  - Reasonable class size limits
  - Increased prep time for adapting instruction
  - Recruitment and retention of classroom teachers

Parents were encouraged to reach out to their local MLAs
- **Proposed DPAC Bylaw Updates**

- DPAC is reviewing bylaw amendments to align with the Societies Act, including formalizing virtual meeting and voting procedures that have been used in practice. Voting to take place at in person February DAP general meeting.
- **Community Snapshot: Budget Priorities**  
DPAC conducted a “Community Snapshot” discussion focused on district budget priorities. Parents were asked about:
  - Top budget priorities
  - Areas perceived as underfunded
  - What should be protected if funding is tight
  - Confidence in how budget decisions reflect classroom realities
  - Clarity of the budget process
  - What would improve understanding and transparency

Recurring themes in discussion included:

- The importance of protecting front-line staff who work directly with students
- Concerns about inclusive education supports and classroom conditions
- The need for greater transparency and plain-language explanations of budget decisions
- Desire for earlier and more meaningful parent input

DPAC will continue to gather feedback and share themes with the district as part of the consultation process.

- **Upcoming Opportunities for PACs:**
  - February 23 – PAC Support Session (Dry Grad & Grade 7 Leaving Committees)
  - February 25 – Surrey DPAC General Meeting (in person)
  - February 28 – “Connect the Dots: Tools for Confident PAC Leadership”

## 5. Adjournment

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 7:55 p.m.

Next meeting: Apr 15<sup>th</sup>, 2026

Questions or suggestions for future meetings? Contact: [elginpac@gmail.com](mailto:elginpac@gmail.com)